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A Short History of Switzerland. By DR. KARL DÄNDLIKER, Professor at the University of Zurich. Translated by E. Salisbury. Pp. 294. Price, \$2.50. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1899.

Americans should study the history of Switzerland, for it is in Switzerland that we find to-day the best example of the application of democratic principles to the life of the state.

The following extracts from Swiss State Papers, which Dr. Dändliker has placed upon his fly-leaf, form an excellent guiding thread through the labyrinth of historical vicissitudes leading to the present vigorous and progressive life of the wonderfully "advanced" and prosperous little republic in the heart of monarchical Europe: "*Les Suisses sont assez sage pour n'avoir pas l'esprit de conquérans, qui est ordinairement l'esprit d'injustice.*" "*Les Suisses ont deux Religions dans leur Pais; c'est ce qui les divise quelque fois: mais ils n'ont qu'une liberté, qu'ils aiment souverainement; c'est ce qui les réunit toujours, et qui les réunira éternellement.*"

How this wisdom which eliminated the spirit of conquest was developed, and how the Swiss, divided as they have ever been by diversity of religions, of race, of language, of customs, are yet inseparably united by their unchanging love for their one liberty, is admirably told by our author. It is to be regretted that he did not add another chapter briefly narrating the steps—or rather the leaps and bounds—of progress along true democratic lines within the last twenty-five years (for the book closes with the year 1874). It would seem that this might have been easily and very properly done, and to American students would have been of especial value.

The book is in part a revision of a well-known text-book by Professor Dändliker, but much of it has been rewritten in the light of the author's more recent studies in preparation for his three-volume History of Switzerland. Especially has the history of the obscure and confused periods of the Middle Ages, more particularly the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, been elucidated by the latest investigations, while that of the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries has been "almost recast after the model of the larger work."

Swiss history is here divided into four periods. The First Period deals with the ancient races and the history of the people previous to A. D. 1218, together with a sketch of the early territorial divisions. Even back in those crude, primitive times the living "germ of Swiss liberty" is pointed out in the free communes of village, town and country.

The Second Period, 1218 to 1516, might well have been termed the Heroic Age of Swiss History. It includes two hundred years of

struggle against outside tyranny and of a somewhat blind but persistent striving after union and freedom, which resulted in the rise and development of the Confederacy and was followed by the hundred years (1400-1516) of the height of the power of Switzerland as a European state.

The Third Period, 1516 to 1798, covers the era of the Reformation, the religious wars which followed and the formation of aristocratic constitutions, ending with the intellectual regeneration and political ferments of the eighteenth century.

The Fourth Period is that of the new development in its varied phases, including an account of the consolidation of the Federal State and of the progress of the Republic under the Constitution of 1848.

Synoptical and chronological tables, an excellent index and table of contents help to make the work convenient for reference.

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Rhode Island and the Formation of the Union. By FRANK GREENE BATES, Ph. D., [Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law. Vol. X, No. 2]. Pp. 220. New York and London: The Macmillan Company, 1898.

Dr. Bates' monograph makes a substantial addition to our knowledge of that public opinion in the various states to which the framers of the constitution had to make their final appeal. The contest in Rhode Island has a special interest because of her stubborn resistance to the "more perfect union." The author has done his work with thoroughness, using not merely printed material, but manuscript archives as well. The literary workmanship leaves something to be desired. Details are not always so ordered as to enforce sharply and clearly the main propositions which the author has sought to establish.

The introduction on the colonial era seems rather perfunctory and somewhat lacking in proportion. Whatever influence may have been exerted by the early boundary controversies, they need hardly have been reviewed in so much detail. On the other hand, a more comprehensive view of the colony as it was, say in 1765, would have increased the effectiveness of the author's treatment of the later years. One cannot avoid a certain skepticism in regard to the causal relation between the individualism illustrated in the founding and early history of the colony, and the course which it pursued after the War of Independence.

The aggressiveness and spirit of co-operation shown by Rhode Island in the events leading up to independence are well brought out.